

## **KNOX PRESBYTERIAN STRATFORD**

**November 17, 2024.** 26th Sunday after Pentecost

**WELCOME to Knox: a place where friendships begin and grow!**

### **PRELUDE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **INTROIT** – Praise (R.A.M. – Random Acts of Music)

- Bev Dougall, Heather Hislop, Peter Dougall and Suzanne Strahan

### **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** The God of wisdom calls us to worship;

**Many:** In humility, we gather to offer our thanks and praise.

**One:** The God of peace calls us to let go of our cares and worries and be kind.

**Many:** In faith, we turn to God for hope and guidance.

**One:** The God of past, present and future welcomes us into this moment.

**Many:** In joy, we celebrate life in God's present moment.

**One:** Let us worship God together!

**UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH:** Lord of goodness and life, we are in wonder and awe, eager to thank-You. You are the source of all that is good and true, which is the essence of Your love. You bring gifts of peace and healing into troubled lives. You show us the way to love friend and enemy alike with kindness, and how to build a better world together. In this time of worship, inspire us to believe our work in Jesus' name makes a difference. Amen.

**HYMN:** #748 Lord of all hopefulness Verses 1, 3 and 4

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (Together)

God of justice and mercy, You call us to take part in our community, loving our neighbours and serving Your purposes. We confess this is easier said than done. We often sit in judgment on those who serve in public life, criticizing any who fall short of our expectations. Yet we confess we too fall short of your loving purpose for us.

**Forgive us when we have been too quick to criticize, and too slow to join in what needs to be done.**

**Assurance of Pardon (Minister):** Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace. Let us share that forgiveness with others! Amen

**THE PEACE of CHRIST:** Let the Peace of Christ be with you!

**Congregation: And also, with you.**

Please take time and greet one another.

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

### **STORY**

**HYMN:** #97 We thank you Lord for You are good Verses 1 & 3

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Exodus 3: 1-6  
2 Corinthians 6:3-10  
Matthew 1:18-25

**SERMON:** "Every end can be a new beginning"

### **OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY #79** Offering is brought forward. The offering can be placed on the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service, or at the front after.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (Unison) Gracious and kindly God, we bring our gifts to You with grateful hearts, aware of all we enjoy in Christ and in creation. Bless these gifts and the service we offer in Jesus' name, so that others may share in Your goodness and know of the kindness we find in Christ, our friend. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Together):** We pray today for those who are facing danger and despair: we remember before You those living with hunger, communities struggling with the impact of drought, fires, storms and earthquakes, and all those for whom adequate housing seems unattainable. We remember people caught up in wars, unrest and violence and those whose lives are directed by forces beyond their control. Be with them we pray and may we be kind to everyone who crosses our path. Amen.

**HYMN: #632** Help us accept each other Verses 1 and 3

**BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE**

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**Outreach project for November** -The focus is **Meals for a Day** with donations benefitting Shelterlink and the Community Food Shelf at Avondale United Church. Check out the newsletter for details on each Sunday's focus!

**Join us for cake and ice cream, and fellowship together following the service in the Banquet Hall,** to honour and thank Rev. Dr. David Thompson for his time as Supply and Interim Minister since March 2023. **THANK YOU Dr. David!**

**Handcrafters** – Tuesday, November 19 at 10:30am

**Knox Session** – Tuesday November 19 at 6:30pm

**Choir** – Wednesday, November 20 at 7pm

**Life Study** – Thursday, November 21 at 10am

**CAFÉ CHURCH** - Next Sunday in the Banquet Hall. Please let Shirley Weitzel know if you can bring something to share like muffins, loaves, cheese, or fruit.

**Interim Minister:** The Reverend Dr. David Thompson

**Interim Moderator:** Rev. Rob Congram

**Music Director:** Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer

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